





It's Christmas time... there's no need to be afraid! Well, not with The Real Ghostbusters around anyway! Busting ghosts is a twenty-four-hour-a-day occupation even at Christmas. Despite the temptation of mince pies and Christmas pud, The Ghostbusters find themselves lured out to a Christmas Day call in Slay Bells in the Snow! However, it appears to be a hoax call, but who would be so cruel to send the guys on a wild goose chase at Christmas? Who or what? Back at HO, Slimer looks set to spend the festive season in the containment unit after a series of disruptions in Hide and Squeak, and an angry Peter doesn't need much encouraging to do the zapping. In fact, Peter has got a little over-zealous what with The Christmas Spirit and all, but we all know that he wouldn't dream of busting Christmas itself... would he? Just in case the unthinkable happens, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas! If there's still one to have at all.

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THE REAL

THE REAL GHESTBUSTERS









MY CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT IF SANTA CLAUS VISITS EVERY HOUSEHOLD WITH A CHIMNEY IN MEMORY ALONE, AND EATS LUST OME OF THE MINCE PIESLET OF OF THE MINCE PIESLET OT FOR HIM... HE MUST BE SOME KIND OF FILL TOPSO, MULTI-DIGESTATIONAL. REPAIRE PARAMETERS OF THE MINCE PIESLET OF THE MUST BE SOME KIND OF FILL TOPSO, MULTI-DIGESTATIONAL. REPAIRE PARAMETERS



PERHAPE HE'S RELATED TO SCHMER! HA HA AN!

ALIMER! LEAGE THOSE CANDER CANDER THOSE CANDER C























































SPENGLER'S

SPIRIT GUIDE

(Editor's Note: Due to a great deal of Christmas Pud, Egon forgot entirely about this issue's Guide until very late on Christmas Dal, All the others raillied round to help him compile it, and they recorded the following Guide entry. The text is transcribed directly from the tape recording.)

...(Click)...(Muffled sounds of breathing)...(Clunk)"...llo? Is this thing recording anything, Ray?" "Calm down Peter. It's making a whirring sort of noise, so it must be. Look, the little opojits are going round." (Click...Rasp)
"Mind out, Slimer! Man! You even think of going near those mince pies and you'll be ex-Christmas Spirit!" "Ssorryworryworry, Winstony!" (Long and deafening crashing and splattery noise. Recording levels make it impossible to discern dialogue) "...antankerous great stupid great ... " "Peter! PETER! Slimer couldn't help it! You shouldn't have been trying to balance the tray on your head anyway! Now apologise." (Silence)

"Sorry Janine. Sorry Slimer."
"That's better, now don't do it again." (Pause) "Peter, could pass me a mince pie, please? The one under Ray's chair will do." "Here you go, Winston." "Spurp!" "Was that you, Slimer?" "Meesyweesy? Nooeewooee!" "Must have been the plumbing then, right, Egon?" "Right, Ray."

' (Sounds of a pencil being sharpened)
"Now then, could we get on with

"Now then, could we get on with this Guide entry, people?" (Several voices) "All right, Egon." "The



PART29

latest Spirit Guide is about the so-called Christmas Spirits or Yule-tide Apparitions which what is it now, Peter?" "Slimer's looking at me in a funny way, Egon. It's a definite you're about to be slimed' look. ""Aw, Peter, he wouldn't hurt a fly, particularly at Christmas." "That's all very well for you to say, Janine, he doesn't slime you on a regular basis." "CAN WE GET ON PLEASE?" "Soveral woices) "Sorry, Egon." "Now where were we?" "Sounds of apper rustling)

(Sounds of paper rustling)
"The Christmas Ghosts were first
recorded in Dickens' Book A
Christmas Carol and ... WINSTON!
Are you paying attention to the
mater in hand?" "Sorry, Egon.
This Mutatobot Robot toy you
gave me for Christmas is just the
neatest! Look! Now it's a motorbike ... Now it's a hat! Now it's a
scale model of the Eiffel Tower ...
Wow! Like Wow!"

"Yes, and now it's in my hand... and now it's on this shelf where you can't play with it. Could we possibly continue? Has anybody got any useful information to offer on the subject of Christmas Spirits? Ray?"

(Sound of rustling sweet wrap-

"Egoogelurk eegoohy edogododo egoogee." "Pardon, Ray? Can anybody understand-what Ray said?" "Raysywaysy saidsywedsy he thinksywinksy thesewesyspearmintwwintbonnybons are su-

perydoopery scrumyummy!"
"Slimer said, that Ray said, that these Spearmint bon-bons are very nice indeed, Egon." "Thankyou, Janine, I had no idea you sooke "Spook' so fluently."

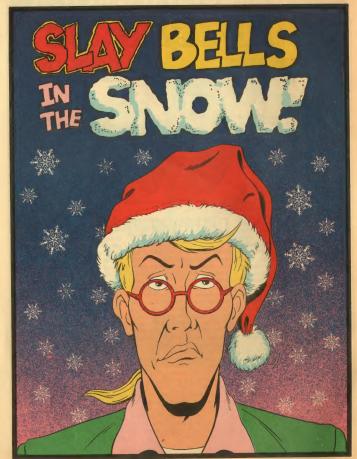
"Now has anybody got anything to add? Peter?"

to add? reter?
"It's clear to me, Egon, that Christmasspooks are here to wish everybody best greetings of the season
to join in the festive spirit like
people, such as for instance...the
succulent
"SPRULPP!! (Peculiar slimy noises,

yelis, crashes, yelps, gurgles and general pandemonium)! "HE DID IT! I SAID HE WAS GOING TO! HE SLIMED ME!" "Calm down Peter!" "Get your foot off my back, Winston..." "Ray! Your chair's tipping over!" "Egoogeglurk eegoohy! Egon help!"

"This doesn't usually happen...
Peter! Mind the tape recorder..." (Click.
Clunk, Sarung.)

(Editor's Note: No, I don't understand it either. I think The Ghostbusters just wanted to say... MERRY CHHRISTMAS!)



Story DAN ABNETT Art MARTIN GRIFFITHS Colouring HEL

t was Christmas night. A frosty, winter moon rose over the crisp streets of New York, looking down on the sparkling fairylights that hung on every street.

In Ghostbusters' HQ, the sweet smell of mince pies floated up from the kitchen, along the hall and past the huge, sparkling Christmas tree and the row of stockings. It wound itself around the presents at the base of the tree, and mixed with the smokey smell of the low-burning log fire in the grate. This was Christmas bliss. Warm, safe – a place of good friends, good food and lots of pressies.

Which, mused Ray, was a bit of a shame considering that at that very moment the four Ghostbusters were miles from HQ and dambering around in the dark of a deserted tenement in New Jersey. Winston, his breath steaming in the chilly night air, shivered and tried the useless light switch again.

"The lights have gone," he muttered.

"So have the stairs," added Peter, pointing his torch up through a ragged hole in the

ceiling plaster.

Ray hugged himself to keep warm as the Christmas frost began to do its night's work. "This is too bad," he announced. "This is just the pits. It's Christmas! We should be at home, relaxing in the warm, not out in this freezing cold. It just couldn't get any worse!"

Ray's flashlight wavered and, for a moment, a large and surprised rat pretended to be Madonna in a spotlight, before scurrying off

into the dark.

"It just got worse," said Ray.

Peter shone his flashlight at his own face to get their attention. "Now guys... ow! That's bright! Look, what are we doing here, exactly?" Egon spoke from the blackness somewhere to their left. He hadn't turned his torch

"The neighbours have reported noises coming from this deserted block at night. That's

what we're looking into."

"Just noises!" snapped Peter crossly, waving his torch around, "They call us out at Christmas just for some noises?"

"Apparently." said Egon.

"Get that torch out of my face!" yelped Winston

Ray wiggled his torch about enabling him to read from the New York Recent History Directory He'd brought along. His face, in the glow, looked alarmed. "Oh dear! According to its case history, this was once the home of the so-called Monster of Many Faces, an axewielding maniac who used to disguise himself as a postman or a police officer to get near to his victims. Oh boy!"

Winston shone his torch at Peter inquisitively. "You look scared, Petey!" he said.

"Ow . . . I am not!" snapped Peter. "You've got to agree that an axe-wielding maniac ghost is just the sort of Christmas Spirit we're looking for."

"Right!" agreed Ray. "This is the best Christ-

mas I've ever had!"

"Let's just take a little look around," ventured Egon. "There's nothing showing on my PKE Meter, so it's probably a hoax. Just a quick look and we can go."

"Fine by me." said Winston, shining his torch at Ray and Peter to gauge his colleagues"

reactions.



"Ow," said Ray.
"Ow," said Peter.

"Ow," said Peter.

"Oh brother," said Winston.

The next corridor was even gloomier, colder and darker than the last seven. Still nothing stirred on Egon's PKE Meter. The Ghostbusters shivered. The Rat who had enjoyed a brief moment of fame earlier, had gone to get his mates and they scurried with great interest to see what the strange humans were up to now.



"Sheesh!" exclaimed Peter.

"What?" asked Winston turning to look at him.



"Ouch!" said Peter, shielding his eyes. "Look, there's nothing here. Let's call it a day— Christmas Day!"

'Right," said Egon.

"Yeah," agreed Ray, "I just want to get home, pull a cracker and listen out for sleigh bells in the snow. Will you get that torch out of my face, Egon?"

"Of course, Ray." said Egon, from just ahead. "But tell me, where have you three been? I've been looking for you for ages . . . ever since we arrived!"

"Well we . . ." began Ray.

minute . . . if you're there . . .'

"Egon!" said Peter, wondering where to point his torch, then thinking better of the whole idea and turning it off completely.

"Yes?" said Egon, from behind them.



"Ho ho." said Winston. "Happy Christmas!"

"Most interesting!" said Egon from just ahead, his PKE Meter ringing out like a fire bell. Or a sleigh bell. "There appears to be a fifth individual present here in the dark. Mimicking me."

Four torches pointed at the faces of four confused Ghostbusters. Four voices yelped "ow". Four torches swung round behind them. Torchlight glimmered for a moment in wild, wild eyes and a gleaming, swinging blade.

Then, Egon's Proton Gun crackled like fairylights in the dark, and Winston's Trap slammed shut with a bang like a cracker being

pulled.

Peter shone his torch around to see his friends, "Okay? All right? All present and correct? Good. Now let's quit stocking up on ghosts and get home. I'm not going to mince my words. There has to be a clause in our contract that prevents me or vule from spending the festive season out boxing ghosts. This spook may have liked to hack and sleigh, but, with the advent of us Ghostbusters, we can . . . '

"Shut up. Peter!" said the other three. shining their torches in his face.

"Ow!" exclaimed Peter.

It was Christmas night! ECTO-1 pulled into the garage at HO and the Ghostbusters staggered out into the warm, homely base. They hurried to look at the tree and eat mince pies. All except Peter who went to bed claiming that he could see coloured lights even with his eves closed.







Slimer wants your iokes! Send 'em to: SLIMETIME Marvel Comics Ltd 13/15 Arundel Street London WC2

What is Slimer's favourite drink? Mucusade! -Chris Stav. London

Where do ghost fishermen go fishing? The coral wraithe! ~Tom Donnelly, Leeds

Why are zombies so often misunderstood? Because they are so cryptic! - Alexa Marks, Glouecster

What is Slimer's favourite newspaper? The New York Slimes! -Peter King, Scunthorpe

What is a ghost's favourite sona? One More Fright! -David Muir, Avr

What is a monster's favourite breakfast cereal? Shredded feet! -Sarah Cooper, Pontefract

What's green, red and slimy with two wheels? Slimer riding a bicycle!

What's green and travels at 125 miles per hour? Slimer on an Inter-City train! - Jo Kellaway, Portsmouth

What do you call a monster that's small and attractive? A failure! - Jackie Smith, Bristol

What is green, red and slimy with a hundred legs? Slimer with a millipede on his nose!

What is the best monster to give an question to? A werewolf because he gives snappy answers! -Lucy Mould, Hampshire

Why do witches shop in markets? Because they like to haggle! -Christopher Miller, Morecambe

What do you get if Slimer goes inside the Houses of Parliament?

Slime Minister's question time! -Nicholas Denton, Orpington

What is red on the outside and green and slimy on the inside? An inside out Slimer! -Elizabeth Walker.

Staffordshire

Why is a vampire hunter like a knocked out boxer? Because he's out for the Count! -Byron Grutzmacher. Wiltshire

Ston Lea



BUT SURELY WITH ALL
THE LOW-LIFE SCUM
WE'VE GOT BACK HOME IN
THE LOS ANGELES
RESETTLEMENT, YOU
COULD HAVE FOUND US
A BETTER JOB
THAN THIS!









MR STAY-PUFT

The toughest ghost that the Ghostbusters have had to deal with to date, has to be The Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man, He was the outcome of a confrontation with Zuul, The Destroyer, a demon who had come to signify the end of The World, Zuul asked The Ghostbusters to choose the form of The Avenger and while the others kept their minds blank, the image of Mr.Stay-Puft inadvertently crept into Ray's. This one slip of concentration was enough to create The Avenger, and the giant Marshmallow Man appeared to fulfill its mission. However, The Ghostbusters were here to save The World and their finest hour came in the destruction of the sugary fiend, and in turn, the annihilation of





Zuul.

GHOST WRITING!



Thanks for all your letters! Hmmm, you've certainly come up with some interesting questions! Keep those letters coming in, they brighten up my day!

Dear Peter...

Now THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS, number nineteen. is really the best comic I've ever seen. Now Peter got covered all in slime. (I had to say that else it wouldn't rhyme) With Peter, Winston, Egon and Rav. Now that I've finished. I'd like to say, Catch a lot of ghosts and ... HAVE A NICEDAY! - Keith Moynes, Dublin

It's catching!

Do you have to pay for the damage you do?

- Sarah Taylor, Huddersfield

I'm afraid so. Sometimes the client is so glad that we got rid of their ghost that they don't mind too much if we destroy their home in the process. Usually, they do, and deduct the cost of damages from our paychegue!

In issue eight's Fact File, it says that beams from the Proton Guns should never be crossed, but, in The Little Shoppe of Terrors in issue five, that's exactly what happened. Why? —Paul Ashley, Herts

You're quite right, Paul. To cross the ionic beams is, as Egon says, "Very dangerous indeed!" Unfortunately, some ghosts are so dangerous and so difficult to bust, that we have to use this method as a last resort.

You always whizz down the pole at HQ, but how do you get back up? Do you use the stairs or is there a fast lift?

-Christopher Jones, Mid Glamorgan

We should be so lucky! No, when we get in from a hard day's bust, we have to use our last dregs of energy to drag ourselves up the stairs. The idea of a lift sounds great! I'll have a word with Egon and Ray about that one.

I made some ectoplasmic slime. I used: Hair gel, food colouring, washing up liquid and water. Is this the correct formula?

— Geoffrey Morton, Sheffield

Egon says that your formula was, "most unscientific!" It sounds like fun to me, though.

- In Fright School in issue seventeen, what did the D on Ray's hat stand for?
- Why don't you like Slimer?
 Who pays the laundry bills?
- 4. Why does everybody hate ghosts?

 Anon.
- 1. Dunce! No, I'm not calling you names - that's what the D stands for! 2. Who said! didn't like Slimer? He can just be a little irritating at times, that's all! 3. We all have to chip-in except for Slimer who doesn't have any money of his own, but he's the one that runs up the bills! 4. That's not strictly true. Some people hate ghosts but then again. wouldn't you if your house was haunted by a twelve foot, fire-breathing demon? It depends on how friendly the ahost is. However, people tend to be afraid of things that they don't understand.

In issue twenty-one, in Ponquadragor's Revenge, why didn't we see Nekkdasgeddon, the beast with eight legs?

— James Butler, Huddersfield

Are you kidding? Where would we find an artist with astrong enough stomach to draw that horrible, hideous, beast of beasts? Believe me, James there are some things we have to face in this job that are just too repulsive for young, innocent eyes!

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS





WELL AT LEAST I CAN HAVE SOME DAWN --FLAKES. THE GET UP AND GO BREAKFAST CEREAL

AGHHHH! YOU HAVE TO GET UP REALLY EARLY TO CATCH SLIMER OUT ! HE'S EVEN MADE A START ON THE BOX!





































THERE YOU HAVE IT ... AN IONIC-











SLIMER SLIMER













THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

TRANSFORMERS 198 It's Christmas – a time of contentment, peace and goodwill, right? Wrong. For the Autobots' leader, Optimus Prime, it's a time of self-doubt and depression. What's gone wrong, and can the Powermasters help? Cold Comfort and Joy, by Furman/Rimmer/Wildman and Baskerville, holds the answers.

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 29 There's Christmas Spirit galore, thanks to Carnell and Elliot. In fact, Peter has a little too much, and 'busts an important visitor! Plus, Hide and Squeak, by Carnell and Williams and Slay Bells in the Snow by Dan Abnett. A seasonally sinister bunch of shockers!

DRAGON'S CLAWS 7 Mercy must face not just the lethal vigilante know as Scourge, but also her own shocking past as the Claws battle in Canada. Can Dragon and the others save Mercy from Scourge...and from herself? The Quality Of Mercy is by Furman and Senior. Don't dare miss the return of the Claws' deadliest enemies!

The grant of the Claws he won't work for force, Death's Head figures he owes the Chain Gang one for re-building him. Trouble is, the man they want him to hunt down is none other than Scavenger of Dragon's Claws ID eath's Head lost the first round to the Claws, but this time looks set to be different! Contractual Obligations is by Furman, Hitch and Farmer.

DON'T MISS...

ACTION FORCE MONTHLY 8 Flint takes on Destro in the frozen wastes of the Arctic, with the secrets of Project Omega going to the winner. Nuclear Winter is a decidedly chilly Christmas tale brought to you by Steve Alan and Robin Smith. Plus, the return of the Intelligence profiles and Mail Call!

ON SALE NOW!

